

HAIL THE SAVIOUR!

The Churches Which Observed Christmas Yesterday.

Rev. Dr. Cox on "The Period of the Nativity."

Rev. George O. Little's Sermon on "The World's Christmas Gift."

Bishop Andrews's Christmas Discourse at McKendree Church.

In many of the protestant churches—in fact, in nearly all except those of the Episcopal denomination—the celebration of Christmas took place yesterday, and in the sermons of the different pastors appropriate allusions to the occasion were made. At the Foundry M. E. church the pastor, Rev. Mr. Ward, preached from the text, "His name shall be called Immanuel." In the evening Mr. Charles Nye made a temperance address, and the Madrigal boys rendered some fine musical selections. At St. Paul's Lutheran church the interior was elaborately decorated, and the pastor, Rev. Dr. Dörner, preached upon "Christmas Observances and Their Uses." In the evening, choral services will be held in this church today.

The E. street Baptist church was beautifully decorated with evergreens and flowers, and suspended above the altar was an exquisite floral star. The sermon of the pastor, Dr. Fausch, in the morning was "At Bethlehem and Jordan." The musical services at this church were very finely rendered.

At St. Luke's church on Fifteenth street a Christmas eve musical service was held last evening under the title of "The Holy Child Jesus," which consisted of solos, duets, and choruses, describing the birth of the Saviour, the visit of the magi, and the song of the angels heralding "Peace on earth, good will toward men." The choir is composed of children from the Sunday school, aided by a few adults and the effective manner in which all the music was rendered was carefully Prof. Johnson has instructed them.

THE PERIOD OF THE NATIVITY.
FIFTH OF DECEMBER—THE BIRTHDAY OF THE SAVIOUR QUESTIONED.

Rev. Samuel K. Cox, D. D., pastor of the Mount Vernon Place M. E. church, south, preached morning and night from the passage contained in Luke II, 8, 15. Appropriate and excellent music was rendered by the choir, under the leadership of Mr. J. H. Daniel. The points discussed were "The Period of the Nativity," "The Circumstances Attending it," and "The Moral Relations to the Race." The doctor remarked that the near contact of the Sabbath with the day which, by common consent and conventional usage, was observed as commemorative of the birth of Christ suggested to him the question, "Is the morning sermon was chiefly devoted to a discussion of the period of the nativity. It was remarked that no one claiming historical accuracy could regard the twenty-fifth day of December as the true time of the Saviour's birth. That he was not born in the month of December, much less upon the exact day especially designated as the natal anniversary, had been settled beyond all reasonable question. There were no reliable data by which the month of his birth could be ascertained, and it was only by certain coincident circumstances connected with Roman history that even the year of the nativity could be accurately ascertained. The sacred history informs us that Christ was born during the reign of Caesar Augustus as emperor of Rome and Herod the Great as king of Judea. Allowing a proper time for the purification, the visit of the magi, the flight into Egypt, and the journey there until Herod's death—about six months—it will show the interval between the birth of Christ and the death of that cruel prince. According to the testimony of Josephus and of at least one Roman historian, Herod died in the year 750 of the founding of Rome, and in the spring of that year, as indicated by the lunar eclipse which occurred shortly before his death. We are told in Luke that John the Baptist began his ministry in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberias, which, reckoning from his coronation, must have been in A. D. 775. At that time, John the Baptist, according to levitical usage, at 30 years of age, it would make his birth date back to A. U. 745, and Christ's as occurring six months later, in 746, which corresponds with the relation of that event in point of time to Herod's death. But nothing could be definitely determined as to the month in which he was born. We have reason to believe that John began his ministry in the spring of the year, and about the time of the Jewish passover.

Christ must have begun in the fall and was probably born in the early autumn. Several additional reasons were assigned why he could not have been born in December. Why, then, it may be asked, was the twenty-fifth of December fixed upon as the period of the nativity? We find in tracing the appointment of this source it originated in the decree of the western church in the early part of the fifth century, and seems to have been substituted for the old Roman custom of celebrating on that day the feast of the winter solstice, the birth of the heathen divinity Sol or the Sun. This is rendered more probable by the fact that several of the christian festivals were allotted to the most remarkable days in the Julian calendar. Christmas, as a sacred observance is not of divine appointment, nor was it observed in the primitive church. This omission, as well as the obscuring of the nativity with the day of Christ's birth, could not have been due to any other cause. They were probably designed by the great head of the church who foresaw the abuse to which such an appointment would be subjected.

There was one event in his history which he did require to be commemorated—his death. That was the great central fact of christianity around which the hopes of the world would cluster, and upon which the eye of faith in all ages would be fixed. The birth of Christ was indeed a joyous event, the most joyous in the world's history, worthy to be heralded by angels, and hailed as the grand festival day of fallen but redeemed race, but it is so because of its relation to his death—because the incarnation paved the way for the crucifixion.

But, remarked the speaker, while we cannot recognize Christmas as historically the period of our Redeemer's birth, nor religiously as a binding observance, it occupies a place in the calendar from which we cannot displace it. If we would not displace it, let us have it as we could. We had its annual return as a season for family reunions, for festive greetings, for innocent social enjoyment. To christians it may be made an occasion of special gratitude and gladness by reminding them of the manifestation of Christ in our flesh, and all the benefits accruing to the world by his advent to it.

It was especially a season of joyousness to childhood, and as such should be fostered. Christmas is emphatically the children's day. It celebrates a child-birth. It recalls the fact that the Saviour of the world was born into it, and grew up to maturity like other children. They can feel that He is like them; that He enters into the sympathies of childhood, and that they have an interest in His life and death. Let everything be done to make the season to them a bright and happy one. Let the older members of the household give themselves up to the furtherance of their joy. Let no shadow cloud their young exuberant natures, no disappointment chill the fond hopes with which they have looked forward for days and weeks past to this occasion as the red-letter day of the year. "I love God and little children," said Jean Paul Richter. The saying did credit to the heart of that great and gifted man.

"The sportive innocence of childhood," said Archdeacon Paley, "is one of the most beautiful testimonies that nature gives to the benevolence of the creator. It is not the least of the least of human joys, and does not chime in with these utterances. These men of philosophy and genius found delight in the gladness of childhood, and so have all the noblest and the best. The Saviour of the world thought it no perversion of his high and holy mission to turn aside from the curious crowd and take little children to his embrace, and bestow upon them his heavenly benediction. Let us regard it as no concession by every proper means to minister to their happiness, even if for awhile we become children ourselves.

The doctor remarked that in many households Christmas was a season not only of abundance but of superabundance. The father of the family replenished the larder with roasted meats, even to the point of satiety, and the skillful housewife piled all her culinary art to multiply dishes and dainties for members of the family and casual guests. He exhorted his hearers while gathering around their festive firesides or seated at their well filled board, to remember the needy around them, and send liberal installments from their own plenty to supply their need. "Eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send a portion to them for whom nothing is prepared."

He cautioned the heads of families against allowing upon their tables or in their social entertainments any intoxicating drinks. "Let not the season," he said, "be made a license, as it is by some, for undue indulgence in this respect. Christmas could surely be made merry enough in its innocent festivities without the inflaming wine, the fuddling brandy, and the stupefying cognac. Let parents keep out of the sight of their children whatever might betray them into danger. Let no young lady tender the wine cup to her Christmas and New Year's callers, and some young man date his ruin from the seduction of her own fair hand. If some will dishonor the day by drunken revelry and maudlin mirth, let such bacchanal and beastly scenes be confined to the private shop and let the homes of our land be preserved from the pollution and peril of drink."

At night the doctor dwelt upon the circumstances of the nativity—the angelic announcement, the visit of the magi, and the song of the angels, and finally and chiefly upon the moral relations of the advent of Christ to the races, in what sense he was born unto them a Saviour, and the effects of christianity upon their material, social, and spiritual condition.

THE WORLD'S CHRISTMAS GIFT.

SERMON BY REV. GEORGE O. LITTLE AT ASSEMBLY CHURCH.

At the Assembly Presbyterian church, corner of Fifth and I streets, the Christmas services were held yesterday and the pastor, Rev. George O. Little, preached an eloquent sermon in the morning, taking as his text "The Christmas Gift." "The gift of God," he said, "is the Son of God who loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son."

This glorious truth is the flower produced by the old dispensation, and at the same time the germinal seed of the new dispensation. Everything that christianity has accomplished in nearly nineteen centuries, and all that it will accomplish is enfolded in and unfolded from this truth. Everything that went before looked forward to and shaped itself toward this gift of God to the world; and everything that came after looks backward to and proceeds from it. This is recognized in computing time from the birth of Christ, and in describing all events as either B. C. or A. D. I propose to show—

I. The things God's gift of His Son ushered into the world.

1. The old things renewed.

2. The new things it originated.

1. God's gift of His Son ushered into the world—

(1.) The message of good tidings, called the gospel. These tidings are good for each who receives, and good for all the world, to whom it is offered, because the only limit to its reach is the action of men in refusing the gift.

(2.) With this message of the gospel it ushered in a complete system of evangelical doctrine as a harmonious accompaniment.

(3.) It ushered in the christian church, which preserves the system of doctrine and preaches the gospel to all men.

1. The old things renewed.

(1.) The family. The head of the family was the supreme lord. The son had the most consideration, but in Roman law the father could choose, put in chains, exile, sell as a slave. The wife became in law, not his equal, but his daughter or ward. The daughters he could dispose of in marriage for a price, without consulting their father or mother.

(2.) The nation was constructed on the same selfish plan, the king being the head of a larger family, with absolute control, but with less affection and care for the members, and with more greed for himself and his selfish interests.

God's gift of His Son has renewed the family and nation, making christian homes and christian nations.

(3.) Where, and to the extent that christianity has prevailed, it has renewed the world by the removal of these "two relics of barbarism," slavery and polygamy.

1. God's gift of His Son has originated (1) charitable institutions and organizations.

The exposure of children was not only practiced in Rome, but defended by such writers as Seneca, who affirmed "It was not anger, but reason to separate the useless from the sound." This selfish principle prevailed universally in regard to all children or adults, to whom could be applied Seneca's word of reproach, "useless."

There was no association of individuals, families, or communities to take care of the useless. All that was done at all was done by individuals or families. Constantine, 315 A. D., began the work by promulgation of a law.

The council of Nice, 325 A. D., ordered the foundation of hospitals in principal towns. A few asylums were founded by individuals or from the fifth to the fourteenth centuries. From this has sprung the long list of christian charities for the helpless orphan, blind, deaf and dumb, crippled, diseased, idiotic, insane, and aged; for the helpless, debtor, convict in prison, wounded on the battlefield, the wrecked mariner on the ocean, the ignorant unable to provide schools for themselves, the suffering poor; both have found asylum in christianity, and of all kinds; has organized societies, commissions to secure reform of all abuses. But charity, in the limited sense of the word, is only zero in the thermometer of beneficence.

God's gift of His Son has originated the loving custom of giving to and making others happy, so beautifully exemplified in the mutual exchange of gifts on Christmas day, and the merry-making of Christmas week.

May I not dispense with the word, and propose a holy day and has called it Christmas. But God has so disposed that Christmas holiday, with its beautiful family custom of giving and merry-making, has been acquiesced in by the christian world.

Truth is stranger than fiction, and the real Christ is more than the fictitious Santa Claus or Kris Kringle. Mrs. Julia C. Dorr well says in this sentiment in the month of Santa Claus:

What is my name? Say who can tell. Though in every land 'tis a magic spell. The Jews and the Greeks and they call me this, Yet all the different names are the same I wis; Giv'g-beer to all the world in all. Joy-giver, light-bringer, where'er I fly; But the name I bear in the court above— My true and holiest name—is love.

THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST.
CHRISTMAS SERMON BY BISHOP ANDREWS AT MCKENDREE M. E. CHURCH.

The announcement that Bishop Andrews would preach the Christmas sermon at McKendree M. E. church yesterday drew a large congregation to the morning service. In the pulpit with Bishop Andrews were seated Rev. Page Milburn and Rev. C. Herbert Richardson, pastor. The exercises opened with the anthem, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," and closed with prayer by the bishop. Rev. Page Milburn then announced the hymn, "When Marched on the Mighty Plain," after which the scripture lessons were read, and the bishop then announced as his text Luke XI, 14: "Peace on earth, good will toward men." The sermon opened with reference to the universal peace which prevailed throughout the Roman empire at the birth of Christ, as seen in the closing of the doors of the temple of Janus at Rome.

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," by Sullivan, and "I Know that my Redeemer Liveth," by Handel, with fine execution and great mellowness of voice. At the conclusion of the service, the choir sang "Exultate Angelus." The musical programme was ably directed by Charles M. Connell, Esq. Mrs. Fannie Gartrell presided at the organ. At the evening service the exercise entitled "Christ is Born" was rendered by the Sunday school, and ably enjoyed by the choir. The full programme of these exercises was published in THE REPUBLICAN Saturday, and it need only be added that every number was exceedingly well rendered.

A MIDNIGHT SERVICE
AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.

There was a solemn and awe-inspiring celebration of the holy communion last night at St. Paul's church. The day office was thronged with people from all parts of the city, who were tempted to leave their warm firesides to hear the beautiful music. The church had been last night decorated with garlands and wreaths of evergreen and laurel, festoons being suspended from pillar to pillar, and ropes of the same dark colored decorations framing the windows. The dark wood of the open roof brightening the effect of the formal decorations. The whitewashed walls were ornamented with a frieze of evergreen, while on the walls were wreaths and triangles of the same material. There was no sermon, merely the celebration of the communion. Rev. W. M. Barker, the rector, was the celebrant. The choir, consisting of thirty men and boys, was under the direction of Mr. John C. Franklin, rendered the celebration music most exquisitely, and showed the result of perfect training. The altar was decked with a number of wax candles, the subdued light of which seemed to add to the intensity of the scene. The music used was Haydn's, of All Saints' church, Margaret street, London. The service lasted over an hour.

Christmas Eve Drunks.

A policeman's lot is not a happy one at any time, but at the approach of a holiday his vigilance and his labors increase. Christmas is generally celebrated by those of tubular propensities in endeavoring to imbibe more than they can stand, and the most of this class commenced their Christmas on Saturday night. In this season the guardians of the peace were kept extremely active, and as fast as one weary pilgrim was taken to the station house and landed in an eight foot cell the next would be under the direction of Mr. John C. Franklin, rendered the celebration music most exquisitely, and showed the result of perfect training. The altar was decked with a number of wax candles, the subdued light of which seemed to add to the intensity of the scene. The music used was Haydn's, of All Saints' church, Margaret street, London. The service lasted over an hour.

A Temperance Service.

Rev. Dr. Chester, pastor of the Fourth street Baptist church, treated his large congregation last night to a temperance sermon from the well known text, "Watchmen, what of the night?" It was in answer to an invitation of Perseverance lodge of Good Templars, most of whose members were present, together with the grand officers of the district and a great many members of other lodges of this order, and a growing group. The doctor presented some astounding figures on the liquor traffic in our city, that there are now 1600 licensed liquor establishments in the city and district, to say nothing of the numberless drug stores dealing in it.

Amusements.

At the National theatre this week the spectacle of "Around the World in Eighty Days" will be produced by the Kralinys, and at Ford's opera house Daly's "Passing Regiment" will be the attraction. At the Theatre Comique a variety performance, which will embrace some novel features, is offered. At each place there will be a special matinee performance to-day. There will also be a children's matinee, with music, at the Skating rink.

Holiday Presents.

It is truly difficult to decide what to give, as there are so many beautiful articles this season to select from. If you wish something of cost \$1, you would say to thousands of readers of THE REPUBLICAN that the most acceptable present to a lady is one of Helphens's French Square Glass Stopped Pin Bottle of German Cologne. Over five hundred are given at present last Christmas, and as many more will be selected this season.

Not Deserving of Sympathy.

Persons who will fret and fret by inches with dyspepsia and liver disease who Shimmens Liver Regulator is an unfailing remedy for these maladies.

Genuine prepared only by J. H. Zellin & Co.

EAST WASHINGTON.

The advocate band of hope No. 1, had their Easton memorial last evening. The attendance was large and the services impressive. Mr. J. B. Macche addressed the assembly, and was delivered by the Revs. A. B. Ryland, James H. Lacombe, James Holroyde, William J. Boyd and Dr. Rogers. Mr. T. B. Macche closed the services by an impressive, eloquent eulogy on the late Alexander Easton.

Rev. William E. Parson delivered an able address at the Church of the Reformation last evening.

The East Washington churches were generally appropriately decorated with evergreens and were largely attended yesterday, both at the morning and evening services.

The foundations for several new rows of houses are now being dug. Evidently a building boom is about to begin.

The East Capitol postal station last evening was loaded with Christmas packages.

On Wednesday evening the Sunday school of the Church of the Reformation will give a magic lantern entertainment.

The East Washington dog fanciers will show several fine specimens at the coming dog show.

PERSONAL.

J. P. Caldwell, of New York, is at Willard's. M. K. Hochsicks, of Ocean, N. Y., is stopping at the Riggs.

Gen. William Preston, of Louisville, Ky., is at Weicker's.

Dr. Hamilton Rowan and family, U. S. N., are at the Ebbitt.

Mr. Edward Gilman and family, of Boston, Mass., are at the Ebbitt.

Mr. C. Bernhill and family, of St. Johns, N. B., are at the Ebbitt.

Dr. T. Franz and Herman Rohndorf, of Alken, S. C., are at the Ebbitt.

J. B. Brown, J. R. Prince, and J. Brown, Maryland, are at the St. Marc.

Ex-Senator John R. Gordon, of Georgia, is expected at Willard's today.

H. C. Marvin and wife and Miss Jennie Marvin, of New York, are at the Arlington.

E. H. Combs and wife and A. P. Haffner and wife, of New York, are at the Ebbitt.

WHOLE STOCKINGS FULL.

The Army of Present Purchasers on the Avenue.

Everybody was down town Saturday afternoon and evening. Pennsylvania avenue was crowded early and late, and the scene was brilliant in the extreme. The throngs of promenaders appeared to take the greatest delight in looking at the beautiful displays in the show windows, enjoying that phase of Christmas as much as they did the delightful duty of shopping. The retail stores were jammed by fair ladies and by male purchasers of Christmas gifts, and the rush and scramble were painful at times.

Many ludicrous incidents were witnessed, and the people fairly bubbled over with good humors. Great numbers of the humane aspirants were bubbling over with something even more stimulating than good nature, they having celebrated the occasion by over indulgence in that which cheers and incites, as well, but, as they were not troublesome, the rest of the world regarded their movements without displeasure. It is well that the streets of Washington are wide, else many of the pedestrians in various stages of exaltation would have experienced difficulty in making progress without trying to knock down the houses on either side. Yesterday was quiet, but at night the revelers were out again in force.

Local Items.

The members of the Washington Light Infantry corps have concluded to offer their autumner, Capt. William G. Moore, a testimonial of their high appreciation of his services, and this morning a committee, headed by Lieut. John Cowie, will present him, in the name of the corps, with a magnificent gold watch and chain, suitably inscribed. This elegant souvenir is furnished by Semkin at a cost of \$250, and is a superb chronometer of the most approved make.

The concert for the piano at the temperance tabernacle fair has narrowed down to Miss Burlingame and Mr. J. D. Robinson, the latter representing the Georgetown Dashaway club. Mr. Jecko has withdrawn.

Mr. Wormley's Christmas Gifts.

In the store room of Wormley's hotel last night were ranged a half hundred sacks containing flour, meal, chestnuts, and other good things, which constitute Mr. Wormley's contribution to the various social asylums and other charitable institutions of the city. These will be distributed at an early hour this morning, and will carry a merry Christmas for many friendless ones. It is the custom of Wormley to remember annually the poor of the district, and these distributions carry good cheer to many who would otherwise have nothing to bring up to their minds the merry Christmas time.

A Medical Opinion on Kissing.
Medical and Surgical Reporter.

Promiscuous kissing has been infinitely more productive of disease of various kinds than public ever dreamed of, and it is a practice that should be discontinued. The people should confine their kissing propensities to members of their own families, and even then it is not always safe.

A PRECIPITANT. Two o'clock in the morning, sleep on the sidewalk, baby got the croup, and no Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup in the house.

BRANCH OFFICES

or
The National Republican.

For the accommodation of the public, branch offices have been established at prominent locations, where at all times advertisements and subscription can be left at exactly the same cost as at the main office.

Wants, Rents, For Sale, &c., &c., of three lines or less, inserted three times for 35 cents. All answers, when desired, will be delivered by special messenger to the residence or office of the advertiser.

THE REPUBLICAN intends to demonstrate that it is the very best advertising medium in the District, and earnestly requests a liberal patronage of its branch offices.

BRANCH OFFICES.
The following is a list of the branch offices in Washington. Others will be added hereafter:

W. S. Rose's News Stands at the Arlington Hotel, Willard's Hotel, Metropolitan Hotel, and Queen's News Stand, St. James Hotel.

Riggs House News Stand, Ebbitt House News Stand, American House News Stand, W. S. Rose's News Stand, 300 East Capitol.

W. S. Rose's News Stand, 1001 O street northwest. G. G. C. Simms, Druggist, corner Fourth and New York avenue.

W. P. Seale, Druggist, 300 East Capitol. H. A. Johnston, 1001 O street northwest.

The National Republican

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W. S. Rose's News Stands at the Arlington Hotel, Willard's Hotel, Metropolitan Hotel, and National Hotel.

Riggs House News Stand, Ebbitt House News Stand, American House News Stand, W. S. Rose's News Stand, 300 East Capitol.

J. B. Brown, Book Store, 1343 Pennsylvania avenue, corner Fourteenth.

F. A. Phil, Stationery, New York avenue, near Fifteenth.

E. R. Moore, Cigars and Stationery, Pennsylvania avenue, near Twelfth.

VIRGINIA.
Richmond—C. F. Johnston, 918 Main street.

Winchester—E. R. Harmer. Harrisonburg—B. E. Sullivan & Co. Danville—J. H. Copridge. Charlottesville—W. S. Hersh.

NEW YORK CITY.
Breuninger House, 5 Union Square. Fifth Avenue News Stand, Gilkey House News Stand.

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For the Prevention and Treatment of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Smallpox, Yellow Fever, Malaria, &c.

The free use of the Fluid will do more to arrest and cure these diseases than any known preparation.

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A SAFE AND EFFECTIVE ANTIDOTE FOR DIPHTERIA, SCARLET FEVER, SMALLPOX, YELLOW FEVER, MALARIA, &c.

Use as a Gargle for the Throat, As a Wash for the Person, And as a Disinfectant For the House.

A CERTAIN REMEDY AGAINST ALL CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.
Neutralizes all acid miasmata and gases, destroys the germs of diseases and septic (poisonous) matter, and renders the air pure and healthy. It is a certain remedy for the throat or on the person.

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